

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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July 5, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

FROM: Situation Room

SUBJECT: Information Items

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Financial Times Says You Backtracked: The London Financial Times today carried an article entitled "Kissinger Smooths 'European Feathers,' " in which you allegedly had to backtrack heavily on the language used in the communique following the Moscow visit in order to avoid a new rift between the U.S. and Europe. Your assurances to the NATO Council that the U.S. had not agreed to a summit meeting at the end of the European Security Conference nor to cutting the second phase short succeeded in meeting criticisms for now, but the underlying differences remain and will have to be thrashed out. In the European view, the article goes on, the USSR and the Warsaw Pact allies have not yet made sufficient concessions to warrant rewarding them with a summit at the end of the conference.

State Dept. & NSA reviews  
completed

UPI Report on Subpoena: UPI reports that you have asked the U.S. District Court in Washington to quash a subpoena to testify at the Ehrlichman trial. Attorneys John Chester and Gene Staudt said you could not appear because you are holding "critical meetings" in Europe with U.S. allies and NATO officials. Carlyle Maw has submitted a memo stating that you have no information on the Ellsberg break-in and know nothing about any conspiracy on the part of Ehrlichman or the other defendants. Your lawyers argued that the "instant subpoena is both unreasonable and repressive" and that you should not be required to testify unless your appearance is critical to the case.

Polish Seaman Requests Asylum: State has informed us that a crewmember of a Polish fishing vessel jumped ship when a U.S. Coast Guard boat approached it to investigate a possible fishing violation off the Oregon coast yesterday. The crewmember, a Polish national, requested asylum and was taken to the Coos Bay Coast Guard station to await the arrival of personnel from the Immigration and Naturalization Service. The fishing vessel has asked the Coast Guard to return the defector to his ship or to Poland.

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Husayn Visits Refugee Camps: On Wednesday, King Husayn, Prime Minister Rifai, and Chief of Staff Bin Shakir visited two camps on the West Bank populated by Palestinian refugees of the June 1967 war. In impromptu speeches, the King stated that Jordan would never cede any Arab rights and was resolved to liberate the occupied territory. A press correspondent who accompanied Husayn's entourage said there was no doubt of the enthusiasm with which the King was greeted. The correspondent asked individual refugees their opinion of Yasir Arafat and their response was uniformly unfavorable.

Embassy Amman cautions against drawing undue conclusions from the enthusiastic reception of the King, since the refugees are easily stirred by any public event. Many refugees do, however, attribute their suffering during the 1970-71 clash with the fedayeen to the policies of Arafat and the PLO rather than to those of Husayn. Overall, CIA sees the King's visit as an indication of his increased confidence born of a sense of wider acceptance in the Arab world and of his desire to put the PLO on the defensive if he can.

South Vietnam Military Situation: Military action remains concentrated in the Ben Cat District of Binh Duong Province west of Saigon; in other parts of the country, except Thua Thien Province in the north, Communist attacks have tapered off.

Government commanders are rotating fresh units into the Ben Cat area; the move is expected to take until about July 13. South Vietnamese officials acknowledge that government units have sustained heavy casualties and that morale in some units is low. Saigon press spokesmen told reporters yesterday they would no longer issue casualty reports on the Ben Cat fighting for "security reasons." Government analysts believe that the Communists are readying a fresh round of attacks. Some commanders are concerned that the attacks will begin before fresh governmental units have been brought into the area. Intercepts reveal that the North Vietnamese are strengthening AAA units in Binh Duong Province.

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Washington Star-News: A leftwing militant group threatened today to take up arms in the first sign of possible trouble in Argentina following an emotional state funeral for Juan Peron.

Sundar Rajan reports it is a matter of pride for most Indians that their country is the world's largest democracy and has operated a Western-type parliamentary system with marked success, despite the limitation of economic backwardness. But many Indians worry increasingly about abridgement of individual liberties on the pretext of safeguarding "national interests."

Tammy Arbuckle, quoting diplomatic sources in Vientiane, states that the Laos coalition is showing signs of drifting into paralysis. Crucial decisions are being put off -- the result of stiffening right wing opposition, which has begun only in the last ten days and which has had the result of slowing down the tremendous momentum of Communist political victories since the coalition began in April.

AP reports you expressed reserved optimism for a long-term agreement between the U.S. and the Soviet Union to limit offensive nuclear weapons at a news conference at NATO headquarters in Brussels yesterday.

Militant Protestant leaders in Belfast today rejected key parts of the British Government's latest proposals to bring peace to Northern Ireland. Initial responses from the Catholic militants of the IRA were also unfavorable.

Ray Cromley asserts we are growing more dependent psychologically on 7,000 tactical nuclear weapons for the defense of West Europe, yet we have no doctrine for their use. That is, no one has thought out how to fight a tactical nuclear war. Cromley majored in nuclear physics and is sold on the effectiveness of nukes -- in the right place. Numbers are needed in Europe along with conventional forces. But today the balance is all wrong.

C.L. Sulzberger reports on the briefings Vice President Ford receives on a continuing basis from you and General Scowcroft and states that his association with you "is close and personal." Ford believes he has acquired a good background on foreign policy.

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A Star-News editorial states that it is unfortunate Pakistani Prime Minister Bhutto's much-heralded "mission of reconciliation" to Bangladesh turned out to be something of a bust. Despite all the talk about letting bygones be bygones, Bengali officials made no secret of their disappointment at the lack of any real progress on substantial issues.

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